

there are far too many of these institutions, while in others there is a corresponding scarcity. It is stated, on good authority, that within one mile of the Middlesex Hospital there are no less than eight General Hospitals, and in fact that by far the greater proportion of institutions for medical relief are within an area of two square miles. It is therefore beyond dispute that this district is over supplied; and when, on the other hand, it is noted that, on the south side of the Thames, Hospital accommodation is lamentably deficient, the mistaken concentration of the northern Hospitals is thrown into the greater relief. In Camberwell, and the neighbouring districts, including it is said some twenty square miles, with a dense working class population of probably more than a million, there is not a single general Hospital, and other parts of the metropolis are equally badly provided for.

The problem therefore which demands a solution, is how efficient Hospital accommodation is to be supplied where it is now lacking, and on the other hand, what measures should be taken to utilise those institutions already in existence, and which experience proves are not entirely necessary. This matter has been brought into forcible prominence at the present moment because of the financial extremities to which Charing Cross Hospital has been reduced—an admirable institution doing excellent work, with a flourishing Medical School, and a distinguished medical staff, it is yet so crippled, on the one hand, by lack of funds, so that it is unable to meet its present expenses, and on the other hand by want of room, so that its extension is urgently necessary. The transplantation of this institution to the neighbourhood of South London has therefore been proposed, and it is argued that this would be of great benefit to the population of that locality and would draw to the Hospital a larger measure of financial support. To strengthen this proposal, it is pointed out that on the one side Charing Cross is close to King's College, and on the other to Westminster Hospital, so that it could probably be easily spared from its present position.

The matter is one of great importance, for if this principle be adopted in the case of Charing Cross Hospital, it may lead to still further developments hereafter in the removal of other institutions. It is certainly no credit to hospital organization that part of the metropolis should be over supplied with such institutions, while others should be entirely bereft of such advantages. The whole question of Hospital relief is assuming a somewhat critical form, and it will probably be necessary within a very short space of time that its consideration shall be undertaken by some State-appointed authority. In theory, nothing can be more noble nor more useful than

our great general Hospitals, and the history of their work will always remain an imperishable record of, and tribute to, the generosity of Englishmen, and the charitable work of the medical profession. But it cannot be disputed that a new order of things is arising, and with the growth and advancement of Poor Law Infirmaries it is becoming increasingly difficult for those Hospitals which are maintained entirely by voluntary contributions to continue their work. The decision which is arrived at as to the future of Charing Cross Hospital may therefore be most momentous to many other institutions.

WOMEN LECTURERS.

A CONFERENCE, at which there were representatives of societies employing women lecturers, took place on Friday afternoon, May 24th, by kind permission of the National Health Society, at 53, Berners Street, W. The meeting was convened to discuss a standard and general scheme of qualifications for lecturers in the different branches of the profession and to discuss the possibility of forming a Woman Lecturers' Union, in order to maintain a high standard of qualification, and to organise lecturers into a professional body. The Earl of Stamford took the chair. Mrs. Percy Boulnois opened the discussion with an excellent speech on the work that was being done by various County Councils in Technical Instruction, and the employment thus opened up for women as teachers and lecturers. She dwelt on the necessity of a definite standard of proficiency and training. Miss Calder, of the Northern Training Schools of Domestic Economy, spoke from the Training School point of view, and asserted that these were always willing to give confidential information as to a teacher's power to lecture or the reverse. Mr. Wynter Blythe brought before the meeting the work of the Sanitary Institute, its Lectures and Examinations in Sanitary Science.

Dr. Schofield proposed "That this meeting send a copy of a resolution to each County Council, advising them to engage only teachers who were certified by various Societies." This resolution was put to the meeting and defeated.

A resolution was proposed by Miss Homersham and seconded by Miss Maynard, of Westfield College, "That this meeting fully approves that steps should be taken by women lecturers to form themselves into a union with two definite objects in view.

(a) To keep up a high standard of efficiency in the lecturing profession.

(b) To fix a minimum fee per lecture."

The meeting agreed that clause *b*—the fixing of a minimum fee per lecture—was at present impracticable. Finally, a Committee was formed of those representatives of Lecturing Societies who were assembled, with power to add to their number, to consider a standard and general scheme of qualification for lecturers, and what (if any) communication should be made to the County Councils. A further meeting is to be held to report progress.

Among those present were Miss Lankester, of the National Health Society; Mrs. Dacre Craven, Miss Maynard, of Westfield College; Mrs. Malet, and several members of the National Health Society.

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